Office of Environmental Assessment

Five Year Strategic Plan

July, 2005 – June, 2010

Agency Number: **13-853**
Program: **Environmental Assessment**
Program Authorization: **La. R.S. 30:2011(C)(1)(b)**

Vision
The Environmental Assessment Program will protect human health and the environment through effective planning, fair regulations and thoughtful thorough assessment of environmental conditions of land, water and air. Assessment activities will define environmental problems and direct the efficient and effective uses of resources through planning to reclaim, improve and protect the environment of Louisiana.

Mission
The mission of the Environmental Assessment Program is to maintain and enhance the environment of the state in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Louisiana. This program provides an efficient means to develop, implement and enforce regulations, inventory and monitor emissions, pursue efforts to prevent and to remediate contamination of the environment. This program pursues a unified approach to remediation, simplifies and clarifies the scope of the remediation process, increases protection of human health and the environment by addressing remediation consistently, allows for fast track remediation, where applicable, reduces review time and labor, increases responsiveness to the public and regulatee, and increases accountability.

Philosophy
The philosophy of the Environmental Assessment Program is to apply the best science and technology to define environmental problems and to apply effective regulatory and remediation solutions in a fair, honest and consistent manner.

Goal
Improve the state of environmental protection through effective planning, evaluation and monitoring of the environment.

Objective 1:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through water quality assessment activities, will make available to the citizens of the state all mercury fish tissue sampling results by posting on the DEQ website 95% of verified mercury fish tissue sampling results and 95% of official fish consumption advisories within 30 days after concurrence with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2010.

Strategies:

1.1 Review environmental data for water to define environmental problems and facilitate planning activities to develop regulatory and pollution control strategies to meet time schedules and requirements of the Clean Water Act.

1.2 Accomplish water quality assessment as required under Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (The Integrated Report) by compiling and assessing technical data on all water bodies in order to determine possible water quality impairment. A list of impaired water bodies, the 303(d) list, is then developed to show where Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) need to be established and incorporated into the Water Quality Management Plan (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.4).

1.3 Accomplish Nonpoint Source management updates as required under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act by implementing demonstration projects for Best Management Practices.

1.4 Continue to develop Water Quality Standards by maintaining or revising criteria as needed to protect the designated uses of waters of the State (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.3).

1.5 Report and post mercury fish tissue sample results and subsequent advisories, when needed, on the DEQ website, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

1.6 Report and post swimming advisories as needed in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Performance Indicators

Efficiency:	Percent of verified mercury fish sampling results posted within 30 days on DEQ website
Efficiency:	Percent of official fish consumption advisories posted within 30 days on DEQ website
Output:	Number of watershed management plans developed
Output:	Number of fish consumption advisories
Output:	Number of swimming advisories
Output:	Assessment Cycle One: Total number of subsegments with swimmable use
Output:	Assessment Cycle One: Number Swimmable

Output: Assessment Cycle One: Percent Swimmable

Output: Assessment Cycle One: Total number of subsegments with fishable use

Output: Assessment Cycle One: Number Fishable

Output: Assessment Cycle One: Percent Fishable

Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Total number of subsegments with swimmable use

Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Number Swimmable

Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Percent Swimmable

Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Total number of subsegments with fishable use

Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Number Fishable

Output: Assessment Cycle Two: Percent Fishable

Objective 2:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the air quality assessment activity, will ensure that 59 parishes continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six (6) criteria pollutants and to work toward bringing the remaining 5 parishes into compliance by FY 2005-2006.

Strategies:

2.1 Accomplish air quality planning as required in the Clean Air Act by the incorporation of pollution reduction strategies for areas not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards into the State Implementation Plan and initiate the promulgation of emission control regulations to attain the standards.

2.2 Design, implement and maintain the statewide ambient air quality network and evaluate the air monitoring data for trends and compliance with national and state air quality standards.

2.3 Collect samples from four atmospheric deposition sample sites.

2.4 Maintain information on current standards to be used as a baseline for future environmental indicator processing (i.e. 1-hour average criteria).

2.5 Track the number of parishes compliant with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and delineate those parishes not meeting the standards

2.6 Track the number of days of ozone exceedances in non-attainment parishes.

2.7 Track number of stations not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Vision 2020, objective 3.8.1).

2.8 Complete the Ozone Periodic Emission Inventory (point, area, non-road mobile, on-road mobile and biogenics) for the Baton Rouge ozone non-attainment area and statewide for area and mobile sources.

2.9 Provide requisite monitoring data for appropriate EPA databases.

Performance Indicator

Input: Number of parishes meeting air standards for 6 criteria pollutants

Outcome: Number of exceedence days of the ozone standard in the 5 parish Baton Rouge nonattainment area

Number of stations not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Total emissions of manmade volatile organic compounds in Baton Rouge's 5 parish area

Emissions of manmade volatile organic compounds from major industrial facilities in the 5 parish Baton Rouge area

Number of major industrial facilities reporting in the 5 parish Baton Rouge area

Objective 3:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the air quality assessment activity, will ensure that 99% of the parishes monitored will continue to meet the Louisiana Toxic Air Pollutant Ambient Air Standards for at least 38 monitored hazardous air pollutants between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2010.

Strategies:

3.1 Operate and maintain the air quality monitoring network, ambient air data assessment and air emission inventory and ensure that ambient air data are validated annually for use in determining compliance with standards and reporting emissions

3.2 Maintain an updated annual inventory of stationary point source emissions of criteria air pollutants and air toxics (Toxic Emissions Data Inventory) statewide and assess trends in emissions with special attention to areas not meeting standards.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percentage of parishes monitored meeting the toxic air pollutant ambient air standards

Millions of pounds of reported toxic emissions to air from industrial sources (TEDI)

Percent reduction in reported toxic emissions to air from industrial sources from 1991 adjusted baseline (TEDI)

Objective 45:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the air quality assessment activity, will make 95% of the Toxic Release Inventory data available to the public on the DEQ website within 120 days of receipt from the Federal EPA between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2010.

Strategies:

4.1 Coordinate the reporting of the state's Toxic Release Inventory, including development and publication of the data for public access, required by LA Act 290 and Section 313 of EPCRA, or Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

4.2 Monitor pounds of toxic chemicals released to the air and surface water (Vision 2020

objective 3.8.2).

Performance Indicator

Efficiency:	Percentage of the Toxic Release Inventory data available to the public on the DEQ website within 120 days of receipt of data from EPA.
Input:	Reported releases to air (millions of pounds)
	Percent reduction in TRI air releases from 1987
	Reported releases to water (millions of pounds)
	Reported releases to land (millions of pounds)
	Reported releases to deepwell injection (millions of pounds)
	Total releases reported (millions of pounds)
Outcome:	Percent reductions in reported releases from 1987 baseline

Objective 5:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the environmental technology and remediation services activities, will expedite remediation of high-priority and GPRA listed Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities subject to corrective action in a manner which is protective of human health and the environment, by ensuring that 95% of these facilities have human health exposures and migration of contaminated ground water releases controlled between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2010.

Strategies:

5.1 Oversee and streamline RCRA Corrective Action Program pace.

5.2 Focus program resources and actions at high-priority and GPRA listed facilities.

5.3 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminants.

5.4 Oversee and streamline the pace of the RCRA Corrective Action Program.

5.5 Focus program resources and actions at high-priority and GPRA listed facilities.

5.6 Address immediate threats to human health and the environment and maximize actual environmental results by removal, treatment, or containment of contaminant

Performance Indicator

Outcome:	Cumulative percent of high-priority facilities with controls in place to prevent migration of contaminated ground water releases.
	Number of high-priority facilities with controls in place to prevent migration of

contaminated ground water releases.

Cumulative percent of high-priority facilities with controls in place to prevent human exposure problems.

Number of high-priority facilities with controls in place to prevent human exposure problems.

Objective 6:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through environmental technology and remediation services activities, will direct the determination of the extent of both lateral and vertical contamination at sites with pollution by reviewing 89% of the soil and ground water investigation work plans received in FY 2005 and progressing each fiscal year so that 96% of the investigation work plans received in FY 2010 are reviewed in that fiscal year.

Strategies:

6.1 Guide and direct the investigation of sites identified as contaminated in the State by reviewing investigation work plans.

6.2 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each work plan.

6.3 Inspect investigation activities periodically to assure that work is being performed in accordance with the approved work plan.

6.4 Select potentially contaminated sites from Remediation Services Division data and assess to determine the existence of soil and/or groundwater contamination, according to established divisional procedures.

6.5 Seek to return sites to active commerce through the Voluntary Remediation Program (Vision 2020 Objective 3.8.5).

6.6 Guide and direct the corrective action (remediation) of contaminated sites by reviewing corrective action work plans.

6.7 Conduct appropriate administrative follow-up for each work plan.

6.8 Inspect remediation activities periodically to assure that work is being performed in accordance with approved work plans.

6.9 Conduct comprehensive groundwater monitoring evaluations (CMEs) and operations and maintenance inspections (O&Ms).

6.10 Provide requisite RCRA data for appropriate EPA databases

Performance Indicator

Output: Percent of soil and ground water investigation work plans reviewed.

Output: Percent of soil and ground water corrective action work plans reviewed.

Efficiency: Percent of corrective actions initiated within 60 days of approval of the

corrective action workplan.

Objective 7:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the technology and remediation activity, will ensure 50% of the source water areas of the targeted water systems in the state are protected by the Drinking Water Protection Program by the end of FY 2007-2008.

Strategies:

7.1 Prioritize drinking water systems by parish for inclusion in the Drinking Water Protection Program.

7.2 Form a local committee that will visit facilities in a drinking water protection area that could potentially contaminate drinking water in order to educate people on best management practices (BMPs) to prevent contamination.

7.3 Help the committee to get a parish-wide ordinance passed to prevent high risk facilities from locating too close to a public drinking water supply.

Performance Indicator:

Outcome: Cumulative percentage of source water areas that could potentially be contaminated and affect drinking water are protected.

Objective 8:

The Environmental Assessment Program, through the lab services activity, will provide timely, accurate, and cost effective analysis of 98% of the environmental samples collected by DEQ during July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010**.**

Strategies:

8.1 Maintain a high level of quality assurance on all analysis done by the laboratory services division.

8.2 Meet the analytical needs of the LDEQ by providing analytical data used for water quality standards, industrial compliance, baseline monitoring project for ground water monitoring, air toxic, ambient air, enforcement action and other special needs of the department.

8.3 Review all departmental contracts that have laboratory analysis to ensure that work done by commercial laboratories meets all requirements of the LDEQ La Laboratory accreditation program's regulations.

8.4 Ensure that all commercial analytical laboratories covered under the department regulations are certified.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percent of analyses processed within specified holding times and meeting quality control requirements